GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:311
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Permission for Visit to Restricted Areas
Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreigners are issued access permits only in groups of two or more people to visit restricted/protected areas at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government is planning to allow foreigners easier access to restricted protected areas in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and other North Eastern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether foreigners who are issued restricted protected area permits are also allowed to visit areas close to borders; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the time by which this facility is likely to be extended to foreigners?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (f) : Under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 and the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, some areas have been declared as Protected and Restricted Areas for entry and stay of foreigners. However, with a view to promote tourism, some areas within the
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Protected/ Restricted Areas have been opened for tourism purpose, from time to time, which can be visited by foreign tourists, either in groups of two or more or as a couple in the case of husband and wife, or by individuals, after obtaining a special permit from the designated competent authority. Powers have been delegated to various authorities to issue such special permit. In the case of individuals visiting the Protected/ Restricted Areas, prior permission of the Ministry of Home Affairs is required for grant of special permit.

The entire area of the States of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland is excluded from the Protected Area Regime and this relaxation is presently valid till 31.12.2017.

Review of Protected Area/ Restricted Area Permit regime is a continuous process in consultation with various stakeholders and no specific time line can be fixed for this purpose.
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